

STATE SENATOR

# Dan Debicella

★ ★ ★ 21st District ★ ★ ★



## 2008 Legislative Report to the 21st District

Monroe ★ Seymour ★ Shelton ★ Stratford

STATE SENATOR

# Dan Debicella

Monroe ★ Seymour ★ Shelton ★ Stratford

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## Looking Toward Our Future

Connecticut continues to face many issues that the General Assembly did not address this year, including passing a budget that reduces taxes. I proposed legislation to address the issues most important to Connecticut residents, and will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to secure passage of these initiatives in the future. My proposals call for:

### Lowering Taxes

- Lowering the gas tax
- Eliminating the business entity tax (a tax of \$250 on all small businesses)
- Triggering automatic income tax cuts whenever the state has a surplus
- Expanding my job creation tax credit to all jobs created in Connecticut (currently only applies to businesses who create ten or more jobs)

### Making State Government More Responsive

- Amending our state Constitution to allow for voter referendum and initiative, to give voters the power to directly propose and vote on laws

### Improving Our Quality of Life

- Providing healthy living tax breaks to families who obtain all the preventive tests medically recommended for their age and gender—thus lowering healthcare costs for everyone
- Relieving traffic congestion by making mass transit more convenient (e.g., buses to major office parks in lower Fairfield County)
- Implementing a “three strikes” law for violent criminals



*Dan greets the Stratford High School Men's Basketball Team  
(2008 CIAC Class M Champions) in the Senate Chamber.*



STATE SENATOR

# Dan Debicella

Dear Friends,

*Representing the people of Monroe, Seymour, Shelton and Stratford is an honor, and I believe the 2008 Legislative Session will benefit the quality of life for all our families.*


*The General Assembly passed a number of laws to increase penalties for repeat criminals, reduce global warming, improve teen driving safety, and increase open space in Connecticut. I also co-sponsored a number of laws for our district, including banning the consolidation of Raymark waste in residential neighborhoods in Stratford and ensuring that Stratford controls the destiny of Sikorsky Memorial Airport.*

*Additionally, I am proud that we accomplished much for our towns. I worked hard to secure an additional 10-20% in education funding for each of our towns over the past two years. Our towns have received more than \$50 million in bonding money—including downtown Shelton infrastructure improvement, the new Shelton Upper Elementary School, the Stratford Water Treatment Plant, and improvements at Monroe’s elementary schools.*

*Attached is my report of the 2008 Legislative Session, which I hope you will take a few minutes to read. Replacing a living legend like former Senator George “Doc” Gunther has been no easy task. But with his advice and your support, I believe we have improved the quality of life in our towns. Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or issues you may have. I wish you and your family a happy and safe summer.*



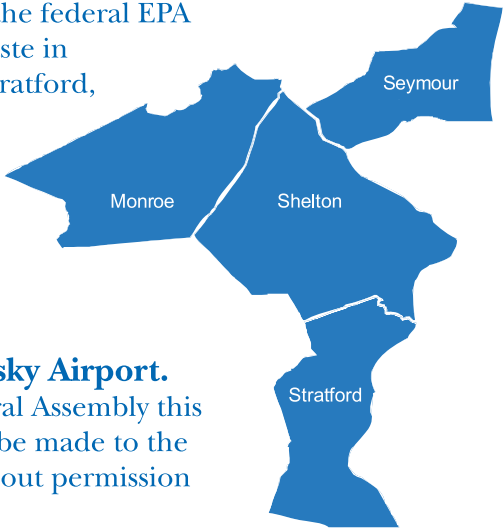
*Dan talks with former state Senator George “Doc” Gunther about issues facing Stratford.*

Sincerely,  
  
Dan Debicella  
State Senator



## Accomplishments for Our Towns

- **No New State Income or Sales Taxes.**
- **More Money for Education.** Each of our towns received a 10-20% increase in state aid for education over the past two years.
- **Over \$50 million in bonding money.**
  - **Stratford:** \$26 million for Water Treatment Plant upgrades.
  - **Shelton:** \$18 million for the new Upper Elementary School, and \$2 million for downtown infrastructure improvements.
  - **Monroe:** Money for new elevators in elementary schools and town green improvements.
  - **Seymour:** Funds for sidewalk repair and a new air conditioner at the library.
- **No Raymark waste in residential neighborhoods.**  
I co-authored a law to prevent the federal EPA from consolidating Raymark waste in residential neighborhoods in Stratford, as they had proposed last year. Furthermore, this new law will protect all Connecticut neighborhoods from any future proposals to dump toxic waste near homes.
- **No state takeover of Sikorsky Airport.**  
Legislation passed by the General Assembly this year states that no changes can be made to the airport until April 15, 2009 without permission from the town of Stratford.



*Senator Debicella and Representative Jason Perillo greet Governor Rell in Shelton as she announces \$2 million in bonding money for downtown.*

## Accomplishments for Connecticut

The General Assembly passed several major bills that I was proud to co-sponsor:

- **Reducing Crime.**  
We introduced new strict penalties for repeat offenders, doubling minimum sentences for second violent offenses, and raising the maximum to life in prison for a third offense. The new law also creates a new crime of “home invasion,” and increases from 50% to 85% the portion of a sentence that must be served prior to parole.
- **Protecting Teen Drivers.** To improve safety on the roads, we have increased both education and enforcement for our teen drivers. We have doubled the driving training to get a drivers’ license to 40 hours, and now require two hours of training for the parents. We have moved the teen curfew up one hour to 11PM, and increased penalties for teens who speed or drive recklessly.
- **Reducing Global Warming.** Connecticut will reduce its greenhouse gases 10% by 2020 under a new law passed unanimously in the State Senate. Through investment in alternative energy, we can both help the environment and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- **Increasing Open Space.** We have created a new “Face of Connecticut” account to purchase open space and development rights, preserving nature for future generations.



*Dan announces his plan to reduce health care costs through preventive medicine.*



*Dan speaks with a constituent at a Seymour Land Trust meeting.*